



MEDIA ADVISORY

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, (816) 426-4900.

Release Date: IMMEDIATE
Advisory Number:

Contact: Gary Cook, District Director
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Kansas City Hearing Offers Small Business Owners Opportunity to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

WHO:	SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, members of the Region VII Regulatory Fairness Board (serving the states of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska) and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance actions. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of regulations by any Federal agency.
WHAT:	<p>To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Hearings across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review.</p> <p>If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believes they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearing. The National Ombudsman requests the particular Federal agency to conduct a high-level review of the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal agency has reduced or waived penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the agencies conduct a review of the enforcement action to ensure fairness.</p>
WHEN:	<p>Tuesday, July 22, 2008 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Registration 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Public Hearing with the National Ombudsman</p>
WHERE:	<p>Kansas City District Office U.S. Small Business Administration 1000 Walnut, Suite 500 Kansas City, MO 64106</p>
MEDIA	National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available before, and after the hearing for media interviews. Please contact Christina Marinos or José Mendez at 202.205.2417 for additional scheduling requests.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247), or visit the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman. For more information on the July 22nd Regulatory Fairness Hearing, contact Gary Cook, District Director of SBA's Kansas City District Office at (816) 426-4900.

For more information on SBA programs and services, visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.